



# Potters Guild of British Columbia

1359 Cartwright St., Granville Island  
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R7  
(604) 683-9623

## Newsletter

APRIL 1993

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### IT LOOKS LIKE A GUILD SALE!

How can the Potters' Guild of B.C. increase its gallery profile in the community and provide a selling opportunity for all Guild members throughout the province? Have an annual PGBC sale—that's how!

Responses to Jan's survey before the AGM indicate a definite interest. Ideas are starting to percolate, and enthusiasm is catching on over the concept, and why not? It's a great idea.

Recent awareness of the Oregon Potters' Association's (OPA) annual May "Showcase" in Portland, Oregon has shown the potential of such a sale. Last year was their 11th annual, with the sale growing to earnings totalling \$150,000. Much work and commitment is required to make a show grow and evolve to be as successful as this one, that's for sure, and ideas on how they have organized such an event can save us a lot of time "reinventing the wheel". I thought you might be interested in some of the overall layout ideas I've learned so far in phone discussions with helpful members of the OPA. Please consider them, as your input and participation here will be greatly needed and appreciated to make this event successful.

This year Showcase will be in the new Oregon Convention Center and will have 100 10'x10' booths and a gallery area that will include more than 100 potters. Acceptance for a booth involves a first-come-first-serve registration and having been an OPA member for more than one year. For the past couple of years, a waiting list for a booth has been necessary, and a point system has been established to determine a fair method of distributing the last few available spaces. Points are earned by participation in subcommittees for Showcase (chairing a committee will

ensure a booth), years of membership, and other OPA activities. The gallery space is open to all members as well, even if you have just joined the group. Three pots per person can be entered in the gallery space and replaced as they sell. There is no entry fee, 1 to 3 hour work shifts, and a slightly higher commission required for gallery space. The booths have an entry fee that has ranged from \$40 to \$90 (\$75 this year for a full booth) and the commission from 15% to 20% (16% this year, decreased as a 7.4% rebate was reimbursed from last years' profits!). Booths can be shared, joined and made bigger with the display and restocking of your booth being your responsibility. Booth participants are also required to commit to 3-3-hour work shifts during the sale.

This is a non-juried sale and each OPA member I have spoken to believes this to be a positive aspect, with comments such as, "the quality is self-regulating and supportive", and "people have an opportunity to become more aware of their work and the improvement in work from one year to the next is obvious", and ultimately a "non-issue". There is a central cash/charge/wrapping area for all sales. The organizational effort requires 20 subcommittees with some requiring a minimal amount of preparation, e.g., demonstration area, to the publicity committee involving the most work and expense. The importance of thorough and adequate advertising is believed to be the key factor in the success of this sale.

This is a basic overview of the organizational aspects of Showcase, with ideas well worth applying to a sale of our own. Realistically, we will start smaller, learn, and grow over the years. A number of us plan to go to Oregon's Showcase on May 14th through 16th this year to look, see, and learn more.

How does next spring sound to you? We'll keep everyone posted with updates through the newsletter as to ongoing progress.

Cathi Jefferson,  
March 3, '93

Editor's note: As noted in the Board Meeting update on page 2, some preliminary planning of the Board and other members interested in the '94 sale is taking place. All those interested in helping to work on the organization of the 1994 sale are encouraged to let us know. Contact the Guild office if you have any questions, suggestions, or just the need to communicate!

The most recent issue of the Studio Potters Network newsletter has just arrived. Those of you who have shown interest in receiving the two issues this year by paying \$5.00 towards postage and handling I hope will not be disappointed by discovering the two-page feature spread on our own Guild. It started out as a half-page, and grew!

## The Potters Guild of B.C. NEWSLETTER

is published 10 times a year as a service to the Membership. Submissions are welcome, and should be in the Guild office by the last Friday of the month. Material may be edited for publication.

**Managing Editor:** Jan Kidnie.

**Mailing:** Anna Bjarnason, Gillian McMillan.

**Advertising Rates:**(incl.GST) \$120.00 full page, \$50.00 half page, \$35.00 quarter page, \$25.00 half column. Classified ads: (free to members) \$8.00 up to 3 lines, \$2.00 per column line thereafter. All ads to be prepaid. Deadline is last Friday of the month.

**Membership in the Potters Guild of B.C.** is \$26.75 for individuals, \$42.80 for groups of two or more, January to December (including GST). See application form elsewhere in this issue.

**Board of Directors, 1993:** Tam Irving, President, Nathan Rafla, Vice-Pres., June MacDonald, Secretary, Anita Wong, Treasurer, with Sarah Coote, Linda Doherty, Kersti Krug, Carol Mayer, Friederike Rahn, Keith Rice-Jones, Elsa Schamis, and Ron Vallis.

**Staff:** Janet Kidnie, Guild Office Administrator, Coralie Triance, Manager, with Lea Price and Kaoru Coates, Gallery

## BOARD MEETING UPDATE

As agreed at the AGM, a summary of the monthly meetings of the Board of Directors will be included in the Newsletter as often as is possible. Rosemary Amon has summarized the minutes of the March 11th meeting, as prepared by June MacDonald. They will be read at the next meeting in April, corrected if or where necessary, and adopted.

The Board met at the Gallery at 1359 Cartwright St. on Thursday, March 11th, with all present except for Sarah Coote, Keith Rice-Jones and Elsa Schamis. Others attending included Allen McAllister, Guild member, Coralie Triance, Gallery Manager, and Janet Kidnie, Office Administrator/Newsletter Editor.

1. The B.C. Government would prefer that the name "Ceramic Foundation of B.C." not be used because it sounds like a government agency. The new name will probably be the "Northwest Ceramic Foundation".

2. The Gallery Marketing committees have been amalgamated as the Gallery committee, with Friederike Rahn and Kersti Krug as co-chairmen.

3. There was discussion regarding a Potters' Guild sale. It was agreed that it would be unjuried, held on a weekend probably in May, with booth charges to participants and an admission fee for the

public. Probably location to be the new theatre space at the east end of Cartwright St. There would be an area set aside for juried Gallery space, items to be picked from the Gallery, with the same commission rate as the Gallery's. Those members of the Board willing to be part of the organizing committee include Ron Vallis, Tam Irving, Linda Doherty and June MacDonald.

4. Allen McAllister attended the meeting to discuss a membership drive at the colleges. More discussion to follow in April.

5. The marketing committee is working on upgrading the signage outside the Gallery, and is also planning a pre-Christmas event in the Gallery. Volunteers are needed in the Gallery on weekends. (See Gallery report). A motion to increase the hourly wage of Kaoru Coates, Gallery staff person from \$6.00 to \$8.00 was passed.

Welcome to the following new members of the Guild in 1993, up to the end of March:

Cornel Bartlett, North Vancouver  
Gilles Boucher, Kelowna  
Jean Brooks, Victoria  
Angela Carlson, Prince George  
Gail Carney, Vancouver  
Kaoru Coates, Vancouver  
Jo Darts, Vancouver  
Lynsey Gibbons, Coombs  
Stephanie Graves, Richmond  
Vicki Gray, Hornby Island  
Patricia Hall, Kitimat  
Elaine Hirtle, New Westminster  
Christine Husson, Campbell River  
Marjorie Jordan, Lethbridge  
Barbara Leung, Edmonton

Paula Ludwig, Burnaby  
Arlene Mackenzie, Sidney  
Ron MacPherson, North Vancouver  
Stephanie Malahoff, Vancouver  
Reva Malkin, North Vancouver  
Marhkey Mazepa, North Vancouver  
Rosalie McAllister, Nanaimo  
Sylvia McGourlick, Port McNeill  
Joyce McLeod, Kitimat  
Karen Opas, Regina  
Alex Ora, Vancouver  
Sonja Picard, Vancouver  
Jo Priestley, Mission  
Lin Richardson, Richmond  
Cherralee Roberts, Kelowna  
Adele Samphire, Crescent Beach  
Veronica Shelford, Richmond

Juanita Spurrell, Burnaby  
Esther Tennenhouse, Salmon Arm  
Shirley Fortier-Tomsic,  
Sonja Wiebe, Mission  
Dianne Wilson, Langley  
Elaine Yamamoto, Maple Ridge  
Winifred Yang, Richmond  
Gail Benjamin-Yamaki, Surrey

And a thank-you, also, to those of you "old" members who have been so prompt in renewing your memberships this winter.

## GALLERY REPORT

I have recently returned to work in the Gallery after a six month absence and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jan Kidnie for all her support over the last several months. I am also deeply grateful to Lea Price and Kaoru Coates who took over and looked after everything here in the Gallery. They both took on the challenge and did a fantastic job.

Thanks also to the volunteers who came in to the Gallery during November and December. Your willingness to assist Lea and Kaoru was greatly appreciated; it helped to lighten their load. We want to continue with the volunteer system as it does generate understanding of how the Gallery operates and gives the membership an opportunity to participate. Please call if you would like to volunteer some time. We are now in need of people on the weekends (1:30 - 4:00 pm). We would like to expand on this over the summer season also. Some painting needs to be done as well, and help for that on Mondays when we are closed would be appreciated.

I am presently working on ideas for a Christmas group show for all gallery artists in November. We hope to make it an exciting addition to our gallery features. If there are any innovative ideas you would like to have considered, or can offer some time, let's get together to talk.

There are two shows coming up in April and May. Suzy Birstein's "Feast & Flower" runs from April 5th to May 2nd. There will be a reception in the Gallery on Saturday, April 10th, from 2 to 4 pm.

Coffee, tea and goodies will be served. Suzy's brightly painted vases, platters and bowls will be featured and will be a delight for all.

## SALES

The Thompson Valley Potters and Weavers Spring Sale will be held on Saturday, May 1st, 10 am to 4 pm, at the Grand Ballroom of the Stockmen's Hotel in Kamloops.

The Richmond Potters' Club Annual Spring Sale of Handmade Pottery will be held on Friday, April 23rd, from 4 to 9 pm, and on Saturday, April 24th, from 10 am to 4 pm., at the new Richmond Library/Cultural Centre, Minoru Park Plaza, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond.

Ailsa Brown's recent work will be on display from May 4th to 30th.

Coralie

April 15 is the deadline for application for Gallery jury selection. Contact the Guild for Gallery guidelines and application details.

## EXHIBITIONS:

Walter Dexter, primarily known for his innovative raku designs using the traditional Japanese technique of creating porous ceramics of uneven textures, varied colours and striking metallic lustres, is in exhibition at the Canadian Craft Museum until May 30th. The exhibition, his first in B.C. since receiving the 1992 Saidye Bronfman Award for Excellence in the Crafts, showcases his most recent works together with a selection of earlier works illustrating his artistic development.

Recent wood-fired porcelain by Gwyn Hanssen-Pigott from Australia will be a feature exhibition entitled "Still Life" at CraftHouse, 1389 Cartwright, to May 4th, with an artist's reception being held on April 16th, from 6 to 8 pm.

**Made by Hand: The Pleasures of Making:** this touring exhibition of British Columbia craft, organized by the Crafts Association of B.C. will open at the Canadian Craft Museum, 639 Hornby Street, Vancouver, on May 28th and run to July 18th.

**Jugs: Pitchers, Dippers & Metaphors:** The work of Canadian potters examining and exploring the form of the simple jug, ranging from functional to abstract, as organized by the Potters' Guild of B.C., will be exhibited in the Galleria of the Canadian Craft Museum, 639 Hornby St., Vancouver, from June 11th to July 25th.

Circle Craft Co-op, 1666 Johnston St., features "Out of the Woods III", turned wood by Jason Marlow, until May 4th. New Work in Porcelain by Peter Flanagan will open on May 6th from 6 to 8 pm, and will run to June 2nd.

Langara Fine Art Department will hold its 1993 Student Art Exhibition, April 26 to May 1st, at the Waterfront Centre, 200 Burrard St. (across from Canada Place)

April '93

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## A DAY FOR CLAY

Every year the Fraser Valley Potters' Guild holds a juried show, traditionally hosted in one of the galleries in 'our' area, -White Rock, Fort Langley, or Maple Ridge. In the fall of '91, the Gallery of B.C. Ceramics was host to our show. In '92 the White Rock gallery was unavailable and we scrambled for a location. Finally, we agreed on a Vancouver site again, but were only able to book it for now in the spring of '93. So the current show and '93's this fall in Maple Ridge, are both happening this year!

We have had several well-known local ceramicists act as our juror, and the selection day is always a fascinating experience for members who volunteer to help out.

This year Stan Clarke was invited to be our guest juror. He has been an active supporter of ceramics in B.C. for many years, both as a teacher at UBC, founding member of the Potters' Guild of B.C., and founder of the Greenbarn Potters' Supply. He knows almost all of us because he's fixed our kilns and offered advice as we select clay, glaze materials and equipment.

At noon on Saturday, March 20th, some twenty members showed up at Kwantlen College in Surrey (where we usually hold our monthly meetings) to deliver up to 10 pots made during the last year. The pots are made somewhat anonymous with the applying of masking tape to their undersides and a letter is assigned to each person. Then each member's pots are grouped on the cleared canvas tables, and a chalk line surrounds them.

When Stan arrived from a morning of working at Greenbarn, he found a small group of volunteers and tables full of an astonishing variety of pots. Our job was to tell him the requirements of the show and to help move the selected work to another

area. Stan worked hard and with real concentration all afternoon. He allowed that our stipulation that he select at least one piece by each entrant was unusual, but that it made sense, and he could live with it. This way, every member is a participant in what may be their first show, but it does put constraints on the juror. The final selection is a true reflection of the work happening in our area now.

Stan felt he'd prefer to continue with his careful selecting than rush out for supper so we brought in Chinese food and had an enjoyable if casual meal before all the members reappeared at 7 pm. By then, the 40 to 50 selected pieces were arranged at one side of the classroom, so we grabbed stools and settled down to the main purpose of the whole procedure, the juror's comments. For those members who aren't currently taking classes anywhere, this may be the only opportunity all year for feedback on their latest endeavours.

First, Stan discussed the overall quality of work and the variety he saw, and we all felt most encouraged! Then he spent about one and a half hours talking about the pieces selected, their strengths and weaknesses: whether the proportions worked, whether the glaze suited the function, and if the artist seemed to have had fun. He then most diplomatically fielded questions about those pieces 'rejected', explaining that he was considering the overall look of the show in terms of colours and sizes and variety of techniques shown. Some not included he really liked, and others were, like the curate's egg, 'good in parts'. Certainly Stan was concerned that the final show would feature his selections, not look like a clutter, and so he stopped selecting sooner than some expected.

The ideas, opinions and values offered by this elder statesman of ceramics was a fascinating experience for all of us there that evening. The show has now been installed, looks grand, and will be open by the time you read this.

Thank you Stan, for a great day, and such friendly, helpful criticism. The show is at the Community Arts Council Gallery at 837 Davie St., Vancouver, until Saturday April 17. It is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 to 4 pm and on Saturday from 1 to

4pm (closed for Easter from April 9-12 incl).

If you're interested in other activities of the Fraser Valley Potters' Guild, call David Lloyd at 525-5852.

Gillian McMillan.

The following letter, written by Johann Polberg is reprinted with her permission. She and her husband Art were founding members of the Potters' Guild, and were very actively involved for many years.

Dear Jan:

I appreciate that as a life member of the Guild I still receive the Newsletter. The March letter is a credit to you all. The business of the Guild is in capable hands.

It was good to find that the majority of the members want the name of the guild and the gallery to remain unchanged. Let us keep our roots they have served us well.

I hope the annual sale will be revived. It was great publicity and a good fund-raiser. It brought members together to work for a common cause and gave encouragement to beginning potters. It is a nice move to have a student membership.

Someone, whose name I have forgotten alas, phoned me about the annual meeting. I do not drive at night anymore and am intimidated by Vancouver traffic. Thank you for thinking of me.

Yours sincerely,

Johann Polberg

ps Is my old friend Kingsmill in need of a holiday? Regards. J.

## SEMINARS and LECTURES

**International Ceramics '93** is presented by Calgary's Leisure Learning Services and hosted by the Alberta College of Art on May

14th to 16th, 1993, and features the following faculty: Leopold Foulem, John Gill, Pierre Guy, Bill Hunt, Cindy Kolodziejski, Ronald A. Kuchta, Eileen Lewenstein, Janet Mansfield, Richard Milette, Kinichi Shigeno, Jim Smith, and Barbara Tipton. For direct inquiries, contact Evelyn Grant in Calgary at (403)245-4944.

Forms are now available from the Guild office. Phone 683-9623.

The Canadian Society for Asian Arts invite you to attend "Emerging Spring", an evening of demonstration and lecture on the creative use of the gleanings from flowering shrubs and spring gardens (and learn something about the use of ceramic and other containers used in the process). The evening on Ikebana, presented by Mrs. Darnbrough, a Komon of the Sogetsu School, will be held Thursday, April 15th, at 7:30 pm, at the Vancouver Museum Auditorium on Chestnut Street. The Museum Gallery with its exhibition of Chinese teawares will be open prior to the session. Admission: \$4.00 Museum and Society members; \$5.00 non-members.

## HINTS ETC

For any of you working on a wheel who are prone to back strain, a possible solution has been spotted down here on Granville Island. Don Hutchinson has placed a Shimo wheel on a (seemingly precarious) crate platform, with the wheelhead at waist level, and he and Nathan Rafla have been happily throwing smaller forms with considerably more ease. Larger pieces require a stepladder! (really precarious, and not recommended). It's also recommended to find someone to help you lift the wheel up onto the platform!

## VIDEOS AVAILABLE

Signature Series (Guild Produced);

**Bruce Cochrane Demonstration and Slide Show:** Two hours in length, including one hour of slides and one hour demonstration of basic throwing, assembling and clay manipulation, and discussion of glaze and firing techniques (majolica and terra sigillata). July 1991. Rental: \$20.00 plus return postage.

**Friederike Rahn Demonstration and Slide Show:** One hour in length, from a Guild evening May 1991. Fredi works in earthenware for the most part, and demonstrated the making of a hand-built teapot. Rental: \$5.00 plus return postage.

Video film footage has been taken of workshops with Kinichi Shigeno, Jeff Oestreich's slide presentation, and John Gill's workshop and slide show. These will be available in the future.

Others:

**The Tea Party:** A U.S. film, 26 mins in length. A group show of teapot sets and theme pieces. No demo. Rental: \$5.00 plus return postage.

**Yuriko Matsuda:** A video produced in Japan (in Japanese) about Yuriko's life there and her work. Approx. 30 min. long. Rental: \$5.00 plus return postage.

**Ronna Neuenschwander's "Dinner with the Devil Snake",** a 20 minute film featuring her sculptural work and her husband's functional work, incorporating African myth and North American contemporary life-style. Rental: \$5.00 plus ret. postage.

**Harry and May Davis: Potters, The Potter's Alternative:** Interviews and information about the Davis' self-dependent approach to working with clay. 52 mins. Rental: \$5.00 plus return postage.

**"Painting with Fire",** a production by Catherine Hahn about Cris Giuffrida's life and work of firing an anagama kiln near Chase, B.C. 30 mins approx. Rental: \$5.00 plus post.

## UNCLASSIFIED

Pottery Work Wanted: A 1st year Sheridan College ceramic student, with several further years experience with clay, is looking for work as a potter in the Lower mainland from May 1st to mid August. Would consider sharing space, or whatever. Call Eve at (416)842-4883 until the end of April.

Potter wanted to make ceramic diffusers (aromatherapy). May be slip-molded or wheel-thrown. Call Surati at 224-5065.

Wanted: Part-time thrower (with own studio?) for functional ware. Call Maggi at 929-3311 for more information.

Work wanted: Experienced pottery student from Denmark seeking studio work. Call Eva at 669-5557.

For Sale: 17 cu.ft. catenary arch kiln, propane fired, with all furniture. In storage at present. Cost \$1500; asking \$1000 OBO. Phone Walt Grigat at 683-4700.

The Main Dance Project Society is seeking donations of ceramic work for a special event sale at the end of May, with proceeds going to the artistic endeavours of the Main Dance Place. Phone Susan Hull at 874-7223.

For Sale: IBM typewriter, recently reconditioned. Contact the Guild office at 683-9623

Wanted: Executive Director for the Alberta Potters' Association. The Executive Director will help with the day-to-day management of the organization, plus supervise the APA pottery shop. This is a paid position based on commission from sales at the shop. Send resume to John H. Robertson, APA, 7060C Farrell Road SE., Calgary, AB, T2H 0T2

For Sale: Test kiln with shelves, asking \$300 OBO; banding wheel. Call Paula Thurston at 224-4666.

## CALLS FOR ENTRY & OPPORTUNITIES

Allied Arts of Whatcom County, in Bellingham, the organizers of the 1993 Northwest International Art Competition (Craft) are calling for entries by those working in ceramics, glass, wood, metal and fiber to this competition, a showcase for crafts people in Washington, Oregon and British Columbia. General rules and admission forms have been received at the Guild office, this year by slides only, with application deadline by April 30th. A minimum of \$1250 in awards will be granted.



### ALBERTA COLLEGE OF ART, VISITING ARTIST - CERAMICS

The Ceramics Department invites applications for a Visiting Artist to complement instructional resources for the 1993/94 academic term. The position offers a minimum paid contract load of 12 hours per week for the fall and winter semesters. Access to equipment, facilities and personal studio within the context of the open ceramics studio is available.

#### QUALIFICATIONS & APPLICATION

M.F.A. preferred, or equivalent experience. Additionally, a combination of active studio involvement and teaching ability is required. Specific knowledge of ceramics technology and moldmaking would be an asset.

Application should include curriculum vitae, personal artist statement, 20 slides of current studio work and names of three references.

Please forward application documents to the Selection Committee, Alberta College of Art - Human Resources, 1407 - 14th Avenue NW, Calgary, Alberta, T2N 4R3 by Friday, April 16, 1993.

# Spring is **HERE!**

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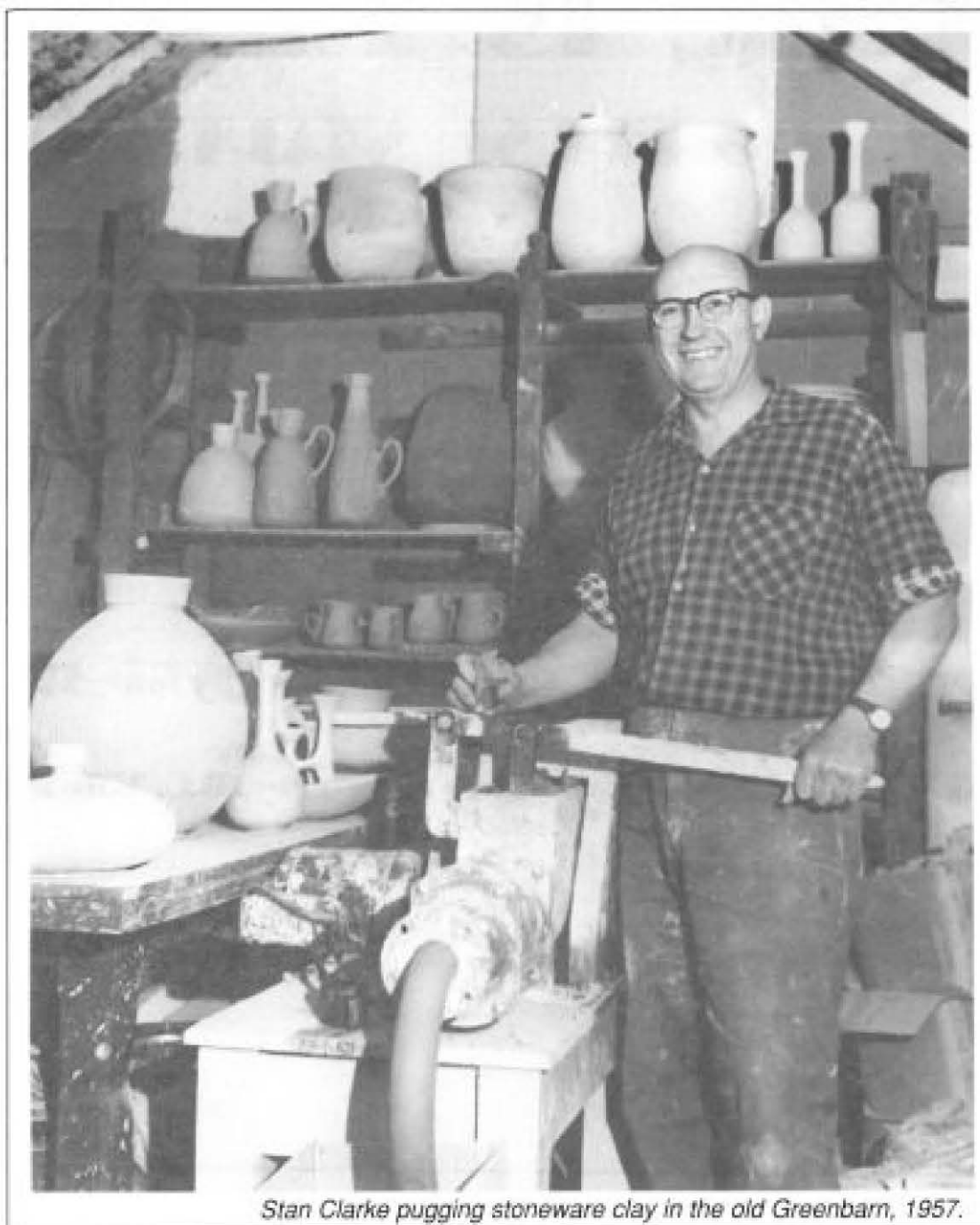
1993 Fees: Individual: \$26.75/year, Group: \$42.80/year, January-December incl. GST.

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# GREENBARN POTTERS SUPPLY LTD.



*Stan Clarke pugging stoneware clay in the old Greenbarn, 1957.*

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